



sent via email

October 4, 2001

Subject: Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services in the New Era of Parity

Dear Interested Party:

This letter is to inform you of our upcoming Mental Health Stakeholder conference on November 2, at U.C. Davis Medical Center at the Cancer Institute Auditorium from 10:00 to 4:00. This conference is set up as a work group to facilitate group discussions on Mental Health issues.

The theme of this conference is to identify and discuss the different services provided to children with Serious Emotional Disturbances (SED), in an effort to improve coordination and cooperation among the various providers, payors and health plans. Mental Health parity legislation has brought an increased level of attention to the benefits available to many people through their commercial health plans. Yet the needs of SED children often go beyond health and mental health services. When a multitude of services can be brought together in a coordinated way to meet these needs the child benefits. Our goal in this conference is to develop a "resource guide" and start a dialogue about coordination of services between public entities and private health insurance.

The conference will start with a keynote address by the Chair of Assembly Health Committee, Helen Thomson. Key stakeholders will then make presentations about their organizations, mission and goals, structure, eligible populations, services available, access points, and legal mandates. After all stakeholders have presented we will break out into four breakout sessions. We are requesting that each stakeholder organization assign a representative to all four break out sessions. The breakout sessions will focus on specific clinical situations illustrating the need for coordination of services, (box lunches will be provided prior to the break out sessions).

If you or your staff have any questions please contact Theresa Grace either via e-mail at tgrace@dmhc.ca.gov or phone at (916) 445-7401.

Sincerely,

Antonio Linares, M.D.
Medical Advisor